

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: March 12, 2025
Permit No.: GW1810053
Designated Site Name: Colon WWTF

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE/Department), Water Resources Division (WRD), proposes to reissue a permit for a wastewater discharge to the Colon WWTF for the Colon WWTF facility located at 1040 Brandt Road, Colon, St. Joseph County, Michigan 49040. The applicant proposes to discharge treated sanitary sewage wastewater only to the ground and groundwater. The permit is pursuant to Rule 2218 Authorization of the Part 22 Rules, Groundwater Quality, promulgated under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 P451, as amended (NREPA), being Sections 324.3101 through 324.3119 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and the administrative rules promulgated thereunder.

The draft permit includes the following modifications to the previously issued permit:

- Reporting of Effluent Phosphorus levels has been changed from the maximum daily readings to monthly averages.
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Dissolved Oxygen have been added to the effluent monitoring parameters.
- Reporting of the annual application rate is not required in the new permit.
- Turbidity has been added to the groundwater monitoring parameters.
- The monitoring frequency for several of the groundwater monitoring parameters has been increased to quarterly sampling, including Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Specific Conductance, Static Water Elevation, Total Inorganic Nitrogen, Ammonia Nitrogen, Nitrate Nitrogen, Nitrite Nitrogen, Chloride, Sodium, and Total Phosphorus.
- Limits have been added for several downgradient groundwater parameters, including: Nitrite Nitrogen, Chloride, Sodium, Total Phosphorus, and Total Arsenic.
- A schedule of compliance has been added to the permit, including the required abandonment of monitoring wells MW-1 through MW-10; and the installation of replacement wells MW-1R, MW-2R, MW-4R, MW-5R, MW-6R, MW-7R, MW-8R, MW-9R, and MW-10R, and the installation of two new wells.
- The addition of groundwater monitoring of wells MW-8R, and MW-9R have been added to the permit, to monitor groundwater quality around the wastewater treatment lagoons.
- The required one-time sampling of the effluent for Total Metals and Volatile Organic Compounds.
- The addition of the Monthly Operating Reports section.
- The addition of The Michigan Industrial Pretreatment Program (MIPP) section.
- Permit language has been revised to incorporate updated references and terminology

Copies of the permit application, Public Notice, Basis for Decision Memo, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet at <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home> (select 'Public Notice Search,' enter the permit number into the search field, and then click 'Search'), or at the

WRD's Kalamazoo District Office located at 7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-5025, telephone: (269) 567-3500.

Persons wishing to submit comments or request a public hearing should go to <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home>, select 'Public Notice Search,' search for this public notice by entering the permit number into the search field, click 'Search,' click 'View,' click 'Add Comment,' enter information into the fields, and then click 'Submit.' Comments or objections to the draft permit received by April 11, 2025, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit, as will comments made at a public hearing should one be held by the Department on the draft permit.

Any person may request the Department to hold a public hearing on the draft permit. The request should include specific reasons for the request, indicating which portions of the draft permit constitute the need for a hearing. If submitted comments indicate significant public interest in the draft permit or if useful information may be produced, the Department may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing on the draft permit.

If a public hearing is scheduled, public notice of the hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance. The hearing will normally be held in the vicinity of the discharge. Inquiries should be directed to Justin Pung, Permits Section, WRD, EGLE, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958; telephone: (517) 449-6678; or e-mail: pungj2@michigan.gov.